

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pledget ~~for use with~~ and a surgical arteriotomy staple comprising, in combination:

the staple having proximal and distal ends and a plurality of prongs commonly connected at their proximal ends, the prongs extending distally and having tissue-piercing distal tips; ~~said pledget comprising:~~

~~a member the pledget being embraced by the prongs and being configured to be retained frictionally engaged by and between the prongs to capture and retain the pledget on the staple, whereby when the prongs of the staple are engaged with tissue about the arteriotomy and are closed about the arteriotomy the pledget will be disposed and retained adjacent the arteriotomy adjacent to a wound site by said staple, said member comprising a base region configured to be at least partially disposed between the plurality of prongs of said staple, said member further comprising a plurality of peripheral notches configured to at least partially receive said plurality of prongs therein, said notches further being configured to engage said plurality of prongs to retain said member to said staple.~~

2. (Canceled).

3. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 1 comprising wherein the pledget comprises a plurality of peripherally extending tabs configured to be received between said plurality of prongs.

4. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 1 comprising wherein the pledget has a plurality of holes ~~in said member~~, each adapted for receiving one of said plurality of prongs

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 1 wherein said ~~member~~ pledget comprises a woven or non-woven fabric material.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 5 wherein said fabric material comprises polyester material.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 1 wherein said ~~member~~ pledget is a polymer sheet
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 1 wherein said ~~member~~ pledget is bioabsorbable.
9. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 1 further comprising the pledget having a physiologically active agent.
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent is adapted to be released over a predetermined time interval.
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises a coating applied to said ~~member~~ pledget.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 9 wherein said ~~member~~ pledget is impregnated with said physiologically active agent.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 9 wherein said ~~member~~ pledget is formed from said physiologically active agent.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises an anti-microbial agent.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises an antiseptic agent.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent inhibits intraluminal clotting.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~pledget~~ combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent promotes extraluminal clotting.

18.-47. (Canceled).

48. (New) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget comprises a plurality of peripheral notches, each of the prongs being disposed within one of the notches.

49. (New) The combination according to claim 1 further comprising the prongs being commonly connected at a crown formed at the proximal end of the staple, the crown including distally extending tabs or webs adapted to bear against the pledget.